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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : PISHEVAR et al. Group Art Unit: 3624  
Serial No : 09/326,646 Examiner: KYLE, Charles R.  
Filed : June 7, 1999 Conf. No.: 4448  
For : COLLECTIVE PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

## A.) INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

In response to the final Office Action dated July 17, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as "the Office Action"), Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the following amendments, which address and correct each objection and rejection raised in the Office Action, and which are believed to place this application in condition for allowance without new issues requiring a further search by the Examiner. This Response is being within the three-month shortened statutory period set for response and no fees are believed to be due.

This Response is being submitted in compliance with the format announced in the Pre-OG Notice entitled "Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted" issued by the Office of Patent Legal Administration on January 31, 2003, and may not comply with the those provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121 that have been expressly waived by that Notice.